

6250.0 - Characteristics of Recent Migrants, Australia, Nov 2010

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the labour force status and other characteristics of 'recent migrants' and 'temporary residents'. For the purposes of this publication, recent migrants are defined as people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2000, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, were not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, do not hold New Zealand citizenship, and have permanent Australian resident status. Information is also included for temporary residents who planned to stay in Australia for 12 months or more. See the Glossary for more information.

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

The 2010 Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey was conducted as part of the Australian Bureau of Statistics' (ABS) Monthly Population Survey. The survey was previously conducted in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004 and 2007. However, the survey changed significantly between 2004 and 2007. For example, prior to the 2007

survey, information had been collected from migrants who arrived in the 20 years prior to the survey's enumeration. Information in 2007 and 2010 was collected from migrants who arrived in the 10 years prior to the survey's enumeration. The name of the survey changed in 2010, from 'Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants' to 'Characteristics of Recent Migrants'.

Unless otherwise specified, differences between data items highlighted in the Summary of Findings are statistically significant. See Technical Note (paragraphs 9 to 10) for further details.

ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

Overview



OVERVIEW

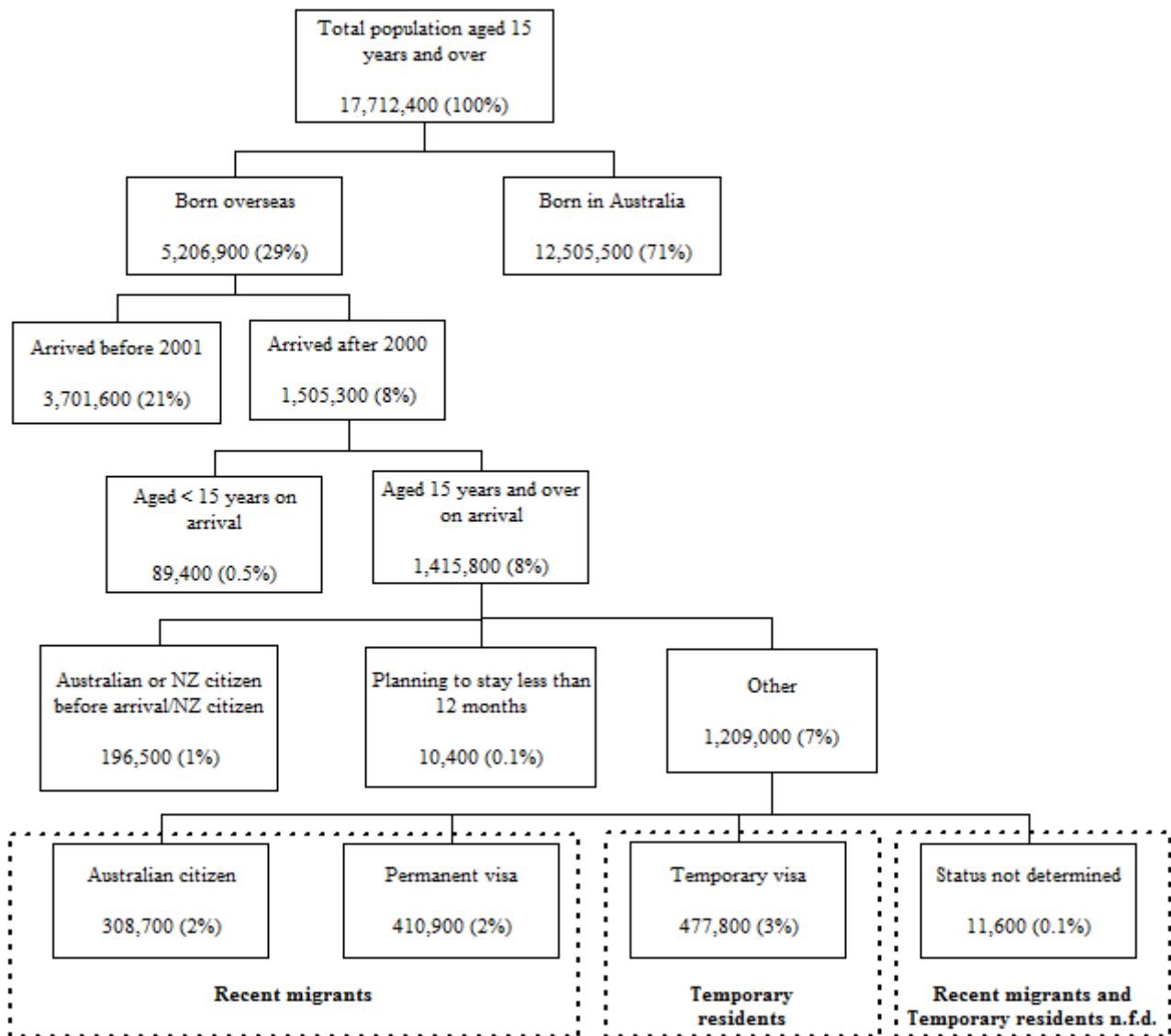
OVERVIEW

In November 2010, the in scope Australian population aged 15 years and over was 17.7 million people. Of these people 5.2 million (29%) were born overseas (Table 1).

There were 1.4 million people who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2000, and were aged 15 years and over on arrival. This represents 8% of the total population aged 15 years and over. Of these, 196,500 were an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen before arrival or currently hold New Zealand citizenship and 10,400 were planning to stay less than 12 months. The remaining 1.2 million people were recent migrants and temporary residents. Of these:

- 60% were recent migrants (permanent visa 410,900 and obtained Australian citizenship 308,700);
- 40% were temporary residents (temporary visa 477,800) (Table 1).

PERSONS AGED 15 YEARS AND OVER, Migration status as at November 2010



In November 2010 there were 719,600 recent migrants. The majority (76%) were born in other than main English-speaking countries and 91% were aged 15-44 years on arrival. There were also 477,800 temporary residents, of whom 80% were born in other than main English-speaking countries and 95% were aged 15-44 years on arrival (Table 3).

Of the recent migrants and temporary residents, 79% were the main applicant on their visa application form when they first arrived in Australia (Table 5).

There were 239,000 people who had a temporary visa on arrival to live in Australia and had since obtained a permanent visa or Australian citizenship. Of these, 52% had obtained a permanent visa while the remaining 48% had obtained Australian citizenship by November 2010. Of those who were temporary residents on arrival and had obtained a permanent visa, 49% held a skilled visa and 32% held a family visa (Table 8).

Employment



EMPLOYMENT

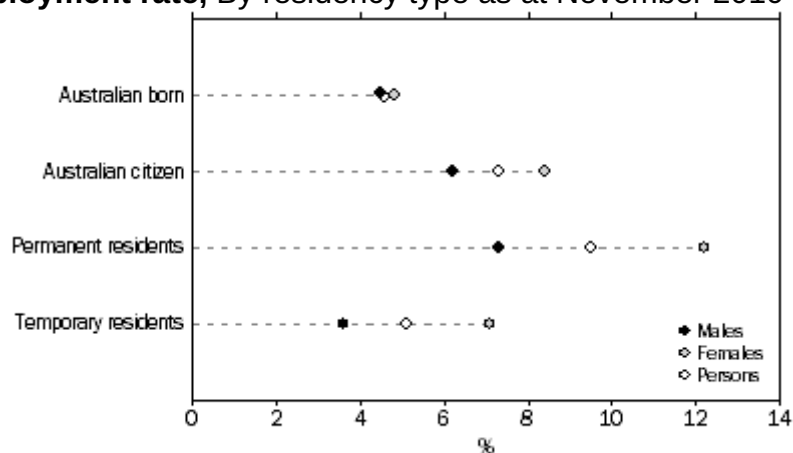
OVERVIEW

Migrants who had obtained Australian citizenship since arrival were more likely to be employed (73%) than other recent migrants (64%) or temporary residents (63%). Of those who were employed, 75% of recent migrants with a permanent visa and 77% of those with Australian citizenship were employed full time compared with 57% of temporary residents. In all cases males were more likely to be employed full time than females: 90% of male migrants with Australian citizenship were employed full time compared with 63% of females; 83% of males on a permanent visa were employed full time compared with 64% of females; and 62% of male temporary residents were employed full time compared with 50% of females. Temporary residents on student visas were less likely to be employed than other temporary residents (55% compared with 73%) (Table 2).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

The unemployment rate for recent migrants and temporary residents combined was 7%, compared with 5% for people born in Australia. Migrants with Australian citizenship had an unemployment rate of 7%. Temporary residents had a lower unemployment rate (5%) than recent migrants on a permanent visa (9%) (Table 2).

Unemployment rate, By residency type as at November 2010 and sex



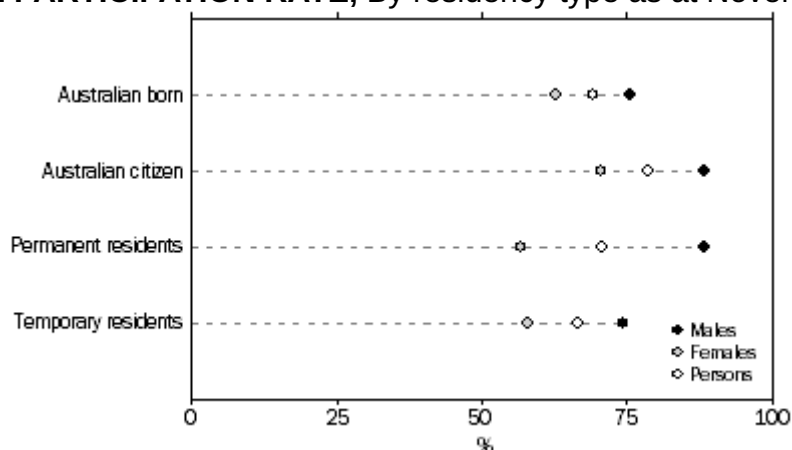
The unemployment rate for migrants born in main English-speaking countries was lower than for migrants born in other countries (5% compared with 8%). Also, migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival had a lower unemployment rate than those who had not (6% and 10% respectively) (Table 3).

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Migrants who had obtained Australian citizenship since arrival had a higher labour force participation rate (79%) than other recent migrants (71%) and temporary residents (66%). In all cases, males had a higher labour force participation rate than females: 88% for male migrants with Australian citizenship compared with 70% for females; 88% for males on a permanent visa compared with 57% for females; and 74% for male temporary residents

compared with 58% of females. For males and females born in Australia, the participation rate was 75% and 63% respectively (Table 2).

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE, By residency type as at November 2010 and sex



Labour force participation rates were higher for recent migrants and temporary residents born in main English-speaking countries (84%) than other countries (67%) and higher for those who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival than for those who had not (78% and 59% respectively) (Table 3).

FINDING EMPLOYMENT

Some 10% of recent migrants who have had a job in Australia arrived with their first job already arranged while 43% spent three months or less looking for their first job (Table 15).

An estimated 44% of recent migrants who have had a job since arrival received some form of help finding their first job. Of these people:

- 68% received help from family or friends;
- 25% from Centrelink or a Job Network agency;
- 7% from an educational institution;
- 6% from a migrant association or refugee settlement organisation;
- 3% from a church or community group (Table 14).

About one third (35%) of recent migrants reported experiencing some difficulty finding their first job in Australia. Of the migrants who experienced difficulty:

- 64% reported a lack of Australian work experience or references;
- 33% experienced language difficulties;
- 23% reported a lack of local contacts or networks;
- 15% said there were no jobs in their locality, line of work or at all;
- 15% had difficulty with their skills or qualifications not being recognised;
- 8% said they did not know how or where to apply for jobs;
- 7% had restrictions due to their visa type;
- 7% had difficulties with transport or had no driver's licence (Table 14).

SKILLED MIGRANTS

An estimated 90% of migrants with a skilled visa at November 2010 who were the main applicant were in the labour force and 87% were currently employed. Of those who nominated an occupation for their current visa, 53% were currently employed in the same occupation group as the one they nominated (Table 17).

Some 88% of skilled migrants had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival and 61% of them had used their qualification in their current job. Of those who had not used their qualifications, 38% had tried to find work more suited to their qualifications (Table 17).

Education



EDUCATION

RECENT MIGRANTS

Almost two thirds (65%) of recent migrants obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia. Of these, 67% had obtained a Bachelor degree or higher, 18% had obtained an Advanced diploma or Diploma and 12% a Certificate level qualification.

Almost one third (31%) of recent migrants had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival in Australia and of these, almost half (46%) had obtained a Bachelor degree or higher (Table 3).

Of the recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia and who had a job since arriving in Australia, 51% reported that they had used their highest non-school qualification in their first job in Australia. A further 23% had not used their highest non-school qualification in their first job but had tried to find work more suited to their qualifications (Table 15).

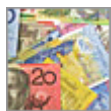
One third (33%) of recent migrants who had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival had their overseas qualifications recognised in Australia (Table 16).

TEMPORARY RESIDENTS

Around 59% of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification before arrival in Australia. Of these, almost three quarters (72%) held a Bachelor degree or higher.

Almost one third (31%) of temporary residents had obtained a non-school qualification since arrival in Australia, with almost half (46%) of these completing a Bachelor degree or higher (Table 3).

Household income



HOUSEHOLD INCOME

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Wages and salary were the main source of household income for the majority of recent migrants (85%). The remainder sourced their main household income from Australian or overseas Government pensions or allowances (9%) or from other sources (5%).

Temporary residents were less likely to report wages and salary as their current main source of household income (77%) than recent migrants. 'Other' income sources were higher for temporary residents (14%) than for recent migrants (5%).

Migrants from main English-speaking countries were more likely than migrants from other countries to report wages and salaries as their main source of income (92% compared with 79%). Migrants from other countries reported a higher proportion for government pensions and allowances, 9% compared with 2%.

The vast majority (92%) of migrants on a skilled visa reported wages and salary as their main source of household income while 57% of migrants on humanitarian visas reported government pension and allowances as their main source of household income (Table 10).

About this Release

Characteristics of Recent Migrants presents data on migration category, country of birth, proficiency in spoken English, educational attainment on arrival and since arrival, employment prior to arrival and since arrival, and sources of household income.

History of Changes

This document was added or updated on 03/06/2011.

03/06/2011 The PDF and the Data Cube have been re-released. Table 16 has been updated to correct some Labour force participation rates.

Explanatory Notes

Explanatory Notes

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, conducted throughout Australia in November 2010 as part of the Monthly Population Survey (MPS). The MPS consists of the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys.

2 The publication **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

SCOPE

3 The scope of the survey is restricted to people aged 15 years and over who were usual residents of private dwellings and excludes:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the Census of Population and Housing and estimated resident populations;
- overseas residents in Australia;
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

4 In 2010, this survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. Previous cycles of this survey have excluded all persons living in very remote areas.

COVERAGE

5 The estimates in this publication relate to persons covered by the survey in November 2010. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See **Labour Force, Australia** (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

DATA COLLECTION

6 Information was collected through interviews conducted over a two-week period during November 2010. Interviews were mainly conducted over the phone with some conducted face-to-face. Information was obtained from one responsible adult present on each visa application in the household. For example, consider a household with three usual residents where two were listed together on one visa application and the other person listed on a separate visa application. In this case, two people in the household would have provided information, one for each visa application.

7 All interviews were conducted using computer assisted interviewing (CAI).

SAMPLE SIZE

8 Supplementary surveys are not conducted using the full LFS sample. The sample for the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey was seven eighths of the LFS sample.

9 Approximately 96% of selected households were fully responding to the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, with 2,650 complete interviews obtained from recent migrants and temporary residents.

ESTIMATION METHOD

10 The estimates in this publication are obtained by assigning a 'weight' to each sample respondent. The weight is a value which indicates how many population units are represented by the sample respondent.

11 The first step in calculating weights for each unit is to assign an initial weight, which is the final weight from the LFS multiplied by 8/7, to account for using seven eighths of the full LFS sample. The initial weights are then calibrated to align with estimates of the population, referred to as benchmarks. This calibration process ensures that the survey weights conform to the independently estimated distribution of the population described by the benchmarks rather than to the distribution within the sample itself. Calibration to population benchmarks helps to compensate for over- or under-enumeration of particular categories of persons which may occur due to the random effects of sampling or non-response (see paragraph 22).

Population benchmarks

12 The population included in the benchmark totals correspond to the scope of the survey. For this survey two sets of benchmarks were used, and were derived from the November 2010 LFS. The first set of benchmarks specified the population distribution in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by area of usual residence by sex by age group. The second set in designated categories of state or territory of usual residence by migrant status.

Estimation

13 Survey estimates of counts of persons are obtained by summing the weights of persons with the characteristic of interest.

COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES

14 Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Surveys conducted up to and including November 1996 were restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1970, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 1999, the survey was restricted to migrants who arrived in Australia after 1980, were aged 18 years and over on arrival, and had obtained permanent Australian resident status. For November 2004, the survey included migrants aged 15 years and over on arrival, who arrived in Australia after 1984 who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. For November 2007 and November 2010, the surveys have included migrants who arrived in Australia in the last 10 years (since 1997 and 2000 respectively), were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well

as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. In 2007, persons born in New Zealand, those holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded. In 2010, persons holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other persons born in New Zealand were included.

15 Some new data items were collected in November 2010, including: whether would have preferred to have worked longer hours in first job in Australia; main reason not actively looking for work; and main language spoken on arrival. Data items related to the last visa held before becoming an Australian Citizen, length of time spent overseas since most recent arrival, highest year of school completed and whether working full time or part time just before arrival were not collected in November 2010.

16 The label 'Type of visa on most recent arrival to live in Australia' was used incorrectly in the 2007 publication. The correct label 'Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia' has been used in the 2010 publication. This data item has not changed, only the label used.

17 It is impracticable to obtain information relating to labour force status of people before migration according to the strict definitions used in the monthly LFS. It is for this reason that 'Has had a job since arriving in Australia' and 'Has not had a job since arriving in Australia' are used to describe previous labour force status, while 'Employed', 'Unemployed' and 'Not in the labour force' are used to describe labour force status as at November 2010.

COMPARABILITY WITH OTHER ABS SURVEYS

18 Estimates from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey may differ from the estimates produced from other ABS collections for several reasons. The Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey is a sample survey and its results are subject to sampling error. Results may differ from other sample surveys, which are also subject to sampling error. Users should take account of the relative standard errors (RSEs) on estimates and those of other survey estimates where comparisons are made.

19 Differences may also exist in the scope and/or coverage of the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey compared to other surveys. Differences in estimates may result from different reference periods reflecting seasonal variations, non-seasonal events that may have impacted on one period but not another, or because of underlying trends in the phenomena being measured.

20 Finally, differences can occur as a result of using different collection methodologies. This is often evident in comparisons of similar data items reported from different ABS collections where, after taking account of definition and scope differences and sampling error, residual differences remain. These differences could be partly attributed to differing modes of the collections, such as whether data is collected by an interviewer or self-enumerated by the respondent, whether the data is collected from the person themselves or from a proxy respondent, and the level of experience of the interviewers. Differences may also result from the context in which questions are asked, i.e. where in the interview the questions are asked and the nature of preceding questions. The impacts on data of different collection methodologies are difficult to quantify.

COMPARABILITY WITH NON-ABS SOURCES

21 The Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) are the main holder of data containing personal information on migrants. Due to differences in collection objectives and

definitions, data from the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey are not comparable with DIAC data.

RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES

22 Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimates, derived from a sample of persons, and the population parameter that would have been obtained if all persons in scope of the survey had been included. For more information on sampling error, refer to the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling error may occur in any collection, whether it is based on a sample or a full count such as a census. Sources of non-sampling error include non-response, errors in reporting by respondents or recording answers by interviewers, and errors in coding and processing data. Every effort was made to reduce the non-sampling error by careful design and testing of the questionnaire, training and supervision of interviewers, and editing and quality control procedures at all stages of data processing. Non sampling errors may be random or systematic in nature.

NEXT SURVEY

23 The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in November 2013.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

24 ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Australian citizen

Being an Australian citizen formalises a person's membership of the Australian community. It entitles a person to live permanently in Australia, hold an Australian passport and do such things as vote to elect Australia's governments, stand for parliament, work in the Public Service and serve in the armed forces. A person may acquire Australian citizenship in a number of ways, for example, by birth, adoption, descent, resumption or grant of Australian citizenship (naturalisation). Migrants no longer require a visa once citizenship is granted.

Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED)

The ASCED is a national standard classification which includes all sectors of the Australian

education system: that is, schools, vocational education and training, and higher education. From 2001 ASCED replaced a number of classifications used in administrative and statistical systems, including the Australian Bureau of Statistics Classifications of Qualifications (ABSCQ). The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education. See **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0).

Bachelor degree or higher

Includes Bachelor degree, Graduate diploma, Graduate certificate, and Postgraduate degree.

Balance of state/territory

Comprises the balance of Australia not included in Capital city.

Capital city

Comprises the Australian Capital Territory, the Major Statistical Regions of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth, and the Statistical Divisions of Greater Hobart and Darwin, as defined in the **Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), July 2010** (cat. no. 1216.0).

Certificate

Includes Certificate I/II/III/IV and Certificate not further defined.

Country of birth

Country of birth has been classified according to the **Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition, 2008** (cat. no. 1269.0).

Employed

Persons who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind in a job, business or farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were;
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
 - on strike or locked out; or
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
 - were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Employed full time

Employed persons who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and those who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

Employed part time

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Had a job since arrival

Includes persons who currently have a job or who had a job at some time since their arrival.

Labour force

Persons who were in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Labour force participation rate

For any group, the labour force expressed as a percentage of all persons aged 15 years and over in the same group.

Level of highest non-school qualification

Level of highest non-school qualification identifies the highest qualification a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken.

It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0) Level of Education classification.

Main applicant

The 'main applicant' is generally the person whose skills or proposed activities in Australia are assessed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) as part of their visa application. They will usually have been specifically identified on the application form as the 'main applicant'.

Main English-speaking countries

The list of main English-speaking countries (MESC) provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and the United States of America. It is important to note that being from a non main English-speaking country does not imply a lack of proficiency in English.

Main field of non-school qualification

Main field of non-school qualification is defined as the subject matter of the qualification. It is categorised according to the **Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001** (cat. no. 1272.0) Field of Education classification.

Non-school qualification

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Postgraduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be obtained concurrently with school qualifications.

Not in the labour force

Persons who were not in the categories 'employed' or 'unemployed' as defined.

Occupation

From 2006, occupation is classified according to the **Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), First Edition, 2006** (cat. no. 1220.0).

Other applicant

A person whose visa was granted on the basis of being the family member (e.g. spouse, dependent child) of a person who qualified for a visa. They will have been identified on the visa application as an 'other' or secondary applicant with the person who met the visa criteria being specifically identified on the visa application as the 'main applicant'.

Permanent visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign nationals to live in Australia permanently.

Recent migrant

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2000, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has permanent Australian resident status.

Reference week

The week preceding the week in which the interview was conducted.

Temporary resident

A person who was born overseas, who arrived in Australia after 2000, was aged 15 years or over on arrival, was not an Australian citizen or New Zealand citizen on arrival, does not currently hold New Zealand citizenship, and has a temporary visa.

Temporary visa

The permission or authority granted by Australia for foreign national to travel to Australia and stay up to a specified period of time. Temporary entrants for this survey include:

- tourists
- students
- business people
- people with specialist skills, such as managers, academics and medical practitioners
- people who make a social or cultural contribution to the community, such as

entertainers, media and film staff, sports people, religious workers, visiting academics and public lecturers

- people who contribute to the development of international relations, such as participants in exchange programs and working holiday makers.

Type of visa as at November 2010

The visa the respondent held at the time of interview, that allowed them to stay in Australia. Categories for type of visa as at November 2010 are:

- Australian citizen - Persons who arrived to live in Australia on a permanent or temporary visa and have since obtained Australian citizenship.
- Permanent Skilled - Skilled migrants are selected on the basis of their age, skills and their ability to quickly make a contribution to the Australian economy. Includes Independent, Australian sponsored, Employer/State sponsored and Business skills visas.
- Permanent Family - Includes partner, child and parent visas.
- Permanent Humanitarian - Includes humanitarian and refugee visas.
- Permanent Other/n.f.d. - Includes all other permanent visa categories or where the type of permanent visa could not be determined.
- Temporary Student - Temporary student visas are granted to people studying or seeking study, training or skills development in Australia and planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more.
- Temporary Other/n.f.d. - Includes tourists, working holiday makers and visitors planning to stay in Australia for 12 months or more or where the type of temporary visa could not be determined.

Type of visa on arrival to live in Australia

The visa the respondent held when they first arrived in Australia to live that allowed them to come to Australia. Categories for type of visa on arrival to live in Australia are as for 'Type of visa as at November 2010'.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and;

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Unemployment rate

For any group, the number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force in the same group.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
CAI	computer assisted interviewing
DIAC	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship
LFS	Labour Force Survey (Australia)
MPS	Monthly Population Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
NZ	New Zealand
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error

Quality Declaration - Summary

QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY

INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

RELEVANCE

The main purpose of this supplementary survey was to collect information on persons who were born overseas, arrived in Australia after 2000, were aged 15 years and over on arrival, who had obtained permanent Australian resident status, as well as people who were temporary residents of Australia for 12 months or more. Persons holding New Zealand citizenship and those who held Australian citizenship prior to their arrival in Australia were excluded, while other persons born in New Zealand were included. The type of information collected included socio-demographic characteristics (such as age, sex and birthplace), employment characteristics (such as labour force status, occupation and industry), educational qualifications obtained (such as level and field, both before coming to Australia to live and since arriving in Australia) and migration information (such as visa category and residency status on arrival to live in Australia and as at November 2010). New data items collected in 2010 included whether would have preferred to work longer hours in first job in Australia, main reason not actively looking for work and main language spoken on arrival.

TIMELINESS

The Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants Survey was first conducted

in 1984 and triennially there after up to 1999. It was collected again in 2004, 2007 and the latest survey was in 2010. The name of the survey was changed in 2007 to Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey, and again in 2010, to Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey to better reflect the scope of the survey. Data from the survey are released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration.

ACCURACY

The number of completed interviews (after taking into account scope and coverage exclusions) for the Characteristics of Recent Migrants Survey was 47,099, of which 2,650 were recent migrants. This sample was achieved by obtaining a response rate of 96% from about 23,500 selected private dwellings. In 2010, the survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia. Previous cycles of the survey have excluded all persons living in very remote areas.

Two types of error are possible in an estimate based on a sample survey: non-sampling error and sampling error.

Non-sampling error arises from inaccuracies in collecting, recording and processing the data. Every effort is made to minimise reporting error by the careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers, and efficient data processing procedures. Non-sampling error also arises because information cannot be obtained from all persons selected in the survey.

Sampling error occurs because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed. One measure of the likely difference resulting from not including all dwellings in the survey is given by the standard error. There are about two chances in three that a sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors.

COHERENCE

The ABS has previously conducted a survey of recent migrants in 1984, 1987, 1990, 1993, 1996, 1999, 2004 and 2007. While the ABS seeks to maximise consistency and comparability over time by minimising changes to the survey; sound survey practice requires ongoing development to maintain the integrity of the data. There were a number of changes to the survey between 2004 and 2007. In 2004 migrants who had arrived in the previous 20 years were included in the survey. From 2007 only migrants who had arrived in the previous 10 years were included. There were also new and reworded questions in the 2007 survey, with only minor development occurring for the 2010 survey. This means results from the surveys conducted in 2004 and earlier are not comparable with the 2007 and 2010 surveys. However the 2007 and 2010 survey results are comparable. For a more detailed discussion on the differences between surveys see the Explanatory Notes.

Data were compared to non-ABS sources of information available. Comparisons conducted by the ABS showed that the data from this survey are not comparable with other available sources due to differences in definitions, scope and collection methods.

INTERPRETABILITY

The Characteristics of Recent Migrants publication contains detailed Explanatory Notes, Technical Notes and a Glossary that provide information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

ACCESSIBILITY

In addition to the PDF publication, the tables and associated RSEs are available in spreadsheet form on the website.

Data are also available on request. Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors and, in some cases may result in data being confidentialised.

An expanded confidentialised unit record file will be produced for this survey and is expected to be released in September 2011.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Centre on 1300 135 070.

Publication (I-Note) - Publication

Table 16 has been updated to correct some Labour force participation rates.

Data Cubes (I-Note) - Data Cubes

Table 16 has been updated to correct some Labour force participation rates.

Data quality (Technical Note)

TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

1 Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling error. That is, they may differ from those that would have been produced if all dwellings had been enumerated in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the population parameter that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been enumerated, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs.

2 Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is

obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate:

$$RSE\% = \left(\frac{SE}{estimate} \right) \times 100$$

3 Space does not allow for the separate indication of the SEs and RSEs of all the estimates in this publication. However, RSEs were calculated for each separate estimate and are available to download free-of-charge as Excel spreadsheets from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au> as an attachment to this publication. The Jackknife method of variance estimation is used to calculate SEs, which involves the calculation of 30 replicate estimates based on 30 different sub samples of the original sample. The variability of estimates obtained from these sub samples is used to estimate the sample variability surrounding the main estimate.

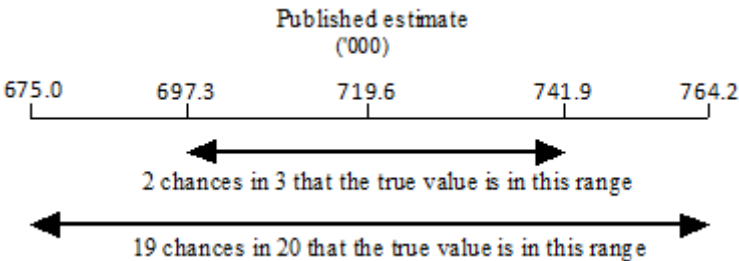
4 In the tables in this publication, only estimates (counts or proportions) with RSEs less than 25% are considered sufficiently reliable for most purposes. However, estimates with larger RSEs have been included and are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. *3.4) to indicate that they are subject to high SEs relative to their estimate and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs greater than 50% are preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. **2.1) to indicate that they are considered too unreliable for general use.

CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES

5 Standard errors can be calculated using the estimates (count or proportions) and their corresponding RSEs. For example, Table 1 shows the estimated number of persons who were recent migrants as at November 2010 is 719,600. The RSE table for Table 1, with the RSEs corresponding to the estimates in Table 1, is included at the end of these Technical Notes. This shows the RSE for the estimate is 3.1%. The SE is:

$$\begin{aligned} SE \text{ of estimate} &= \left(\frac{RSE}{100} \right) \times estimate \\ &= 0.031 \times 719,600 \\ &= 22,300 \text{ (rounded to the nearest hundred)} \end{aligned}$$

6 Therefore there are about two chances in three that the population count that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been enumerated in the survey would fall in the range 697,300 to 741,900 and about 19 chances in 20 that the population count would fall within the range 675,000 to 764,200. This example is illustrated below:



CALCULATING STANDARD ERRORS FOR DIFFERENCES OF ESTIMATES

7 The difference between two survey estimates (numbers or proportions) is also subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on

their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates (x-y) may be calculated by the formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

8 While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated (unrelated) characteristics of sub-populations it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

SIGNIFICANCE TESTING

9 The statistical significance test for any of the comparisons between estimates was performed to determine whether it is likely that there is a difference between the corresponding population characteristics. The standard error of the difference between two corresponding estimates (x and y) can be calculated using the formula in paragraph 7. This standard error is then used to calculate the following test statistic:

$$\left(\frac{x-y}{SE(x-y)} \right)$$

10 If the value of this test statistic is greater than 1.96 then there is good evidence of a real difference in the two populations with respect to that characteristic. This statistics corresponds to the 95% confidence interval. Otherwise, it cannot be stated with confidence that there is a real difference between the populations.

RELATIVE STANDARD ERROR

11 Relative Standard Errors for Table 1 are included below. However, RSEs for all tables are available free-of-charge on the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>, released in spreadsheet format as an attachment to this publication.

Table 1 RSEs: All persons aged 15 years and over, Migration status as at November 2010 and 2007 - By sex

	Males	Females	Persons	Proportion of all persons
	%	%	%	%
2010				
Born in Australia(a)	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5
Born overseas	1.1	1.5	1.2	1.1
Arrived before 2001	1.3	1.6	1.3	1.2
Arrived after 2000	2.5	2.9	2.4	2.4
Aged less than 15 years on arrival	8.4	12.0	8.4	8.5
Aged 15 years and over on arrival	2.7	2.9	2.5	2.5
Recent migrants and temporary residents	3.1	3.2	2.7	2.7
Recent migrants	3.4	3.9	3.1	3.1
Australian citizen	5.2	5.8	4.7	4.7
Permanent	5.1	4.8	4.1	4.1
Skilled	6.6	7.6	6.0	6.0
Family	9.7	7.6	6.7	6.7
Humanitarian	27.0	23.9	21.7	21.7
Other/n.f.d.	21.3	19.0	14.2	14.2
Temporary residents	4.8	5.2	4.5	4.5
Student	7.5	8.9	7.3	7.3
Other/n.f.d.	6.5	7.6	6.1	6.1

Status not determined	26.9	28.2	17.5	17.6
Australian/New Zealand citizen before arrival or currently holds New Zealand citizenship	8.6	7.8	7.0	7.0
Born in New Zealand	10.6	8.9	8.7	8.7
Not born in New Zealand	13.6	16.1	12.2	12.1
Planning to stay less than 12 months	31.0	35.0	25.8	25.7
Total	0.2	0.3	0.2	-

2007

Born in Australia(a)	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4
Born overseas	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.2
Arrived before 1998	1.2	1.5	1.2	1.2
Arrived after 1997	3.3	2.8	2.7	2.7
Aged less than 15 years on arrival	12.3	11.3	9.0	9.0
Aged 15 years and over on arrival	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6
Recent migrants and temporary residents	3.7	2.9	2.7	2.7
Recent migrants	4.1	3.5	3.3	3.3
Australian citizen	6.3	4.2	4.2	4.2
Permanent	4.4	4.8	3.9	3.9
Skilled	7.5	7.4	6.6	6.6
Family	7.7	8.5	6.5	6.5
Humanitarian	22.7	29.2	21.8	21.8
Other/n.f.d.	31.8	29.8	20.7	20.7
Temporary residents	7.2	7.3	6.5	6.5
Student	11.1	11.5	10.2	10.2
Other/n.f.d.	7.2	7.7	5.5	5.5
Status not determined	58.9	49.8	51.2	51.2
Australian/New Zealand citizen before arrival, currently holds New Zealand citizenship or born in New Zealand	7.7	7.8	7.3	7.3
Born in New Zealand	8.9	7.7	7.4	7.4
Not born in New Zealand	13.2	17.1	13.9	13.9
Planning to stay less than 12 months	36.0	28.9	25.5	25.5
Total	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.3

- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes External Territories.